

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Koichi WATANABE
Title: IMAGE READING APPARATUS
AND IMAGE FORMING
APPARATUS
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 02/11/2002
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of a document known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A1 discloses an image encoding device that enables fixed length encoding at a high compression rate without image quality being degraded. The device quantizes the image signals of an original image in units of one processing block which is comprised of a predetermined number of pixels of the original image. The quantization is executed in accordance with the resolution and the number of quantization steps which are determined based on whether or not the image in the processing block includes a halftone portion. The result of equantization obtained for each processing block and the information used for determining the presence/absence of a halftone portion in each processing block are encoded to obtain a code comprised of a predetermine number of bits.

An English translation of document A1 is not readily available; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). An English language abstract is provided for document A1.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By Johnny A. Kumar

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Date February 11, 2002


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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016907-1373		SERIAL NO. Unassigned		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Koichi WATANABE				
				FILING DATE 02/11/2002		GROUP ART UNIT Unassigned		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS		TRANSLATION YES NO
	A1	11-69164	03/09/1999	Japan				
OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>								
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				
* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.								